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of Africa was to all intents in a resting stage. Sparsely threaded along the coasts were unimportant little settlements under European flags and behind was the great blackness of the life that was Africa. How these settlements had come into being, how European nations had invented the theory of "hinterland" and had then gone to sleep upon their rights, this is the theme of the volume. The obscure has possessed a peculiar charm for the author, and the difficulties which beset the student of these movements of European colonization have attracted him to the most recondite investigation. Perhaps the most obscure chapter of African history is the Swedish settlement upon the Guinea coast. Beyond the mere fact that there was such a settlement little has been known. Darmstaedter gives the first complete narrative of the incident. A second volume is promised which shall cover the newer history of the partition of Africa. It will be awaited with interest by all who have found the charm of this opening volume. WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

The Women of Egypt. By Elizabeth Cooper. 380 pp. Ills., index. F. A. Stokes Co., New York, 1914. $2. 8 x 5½.

The record of a western woman's attempt to penetrate the seclusion of the Egyptian harem and learn from the Egyptian woman herself what her life is and how she looks upon life. The attempt is most praiseworthy and was quite thoroughgoing, and yet little that is new to those familiar with the subject has been uncovered. It has long been known that Moslem women approve of their own enclosure in the home, and are strenuous upholders of it; that the freedom of the Moslem husband to divorce his wife and to introduce other wives into his family is the pivot upon which the family life of Islam turns. The familiar intercourse of the writer with Egyptian women of all classes throws pathetic interest over the position of women in the Mohammedan world.

DAVID H. BUEL.

Taschenbuch für Südwestafrika 1914. 7. Jahrgang. Herausgegeben von Kurd Schwabe, P. Kuhn, G. Fock. Part 1: 258 pp. Part 2: Verkehr, Ansiedlung, Statistik. 125 pp. Part 3: Gesetze und Verordnungen. 368 pp. Index. D. Reimer (E. Vohsen), Berlin, 1914. Mk. 6. 6½ x 4½.

For the person who intends touring Southwest German Africa, as well as the individual who wishes to make an intensive study of the region, these books recommend themselves. The first volume is of value for information concerning latitude and longitude of important places and some other miscellaneous data. Volume II contains details relative to transportation facilities, both locally and with other regions, a description of economic conditions, and important statistics of the region. Volume III presents the laws of the country.

The material seems to be well organized; it is compactly written and systematically arranged. The information is just the sort one would desire who is making his first entrance into a foreign land. These books are intended probably not so much for the average tourist as for the man on business or the settler. These handbooks are well worth while. EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

ASIA

The Odyssey of the Philippine Commission. By Daniel R. Williams. 364 pp. Ills., index. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1913. $1.75. 7½ x 5.

A chronological record is, perhaps, the most difficult sort of material to present interestingly. The author of this book has succeeded remarkably well; and the information imparted is of much value. The reader may learn from the book not alone of the political relationship between the United States and the Philippines, but also of the geography of our island possessions and the full meaning of the position of the Philippines in Asiatic waters close to China and Japan. The reader may derive from the book a clear idea of the topographic, climatic, agricultural and industrial characteristics of the islands and of the types of peoples, with their habits and customs. The author served in an official capacity in the islands when the commission began its work in 1900, and has been intimately associated with the region ever since. A good map is the only thing lacking. EUGENE VAN CLEEF.